

15th Korea Green Innovation Days
May 6 – 8, 2026
Sejong, South Korea

Session 3-2. AI and Global Development: Strategic Directions for Developing Countries and the World Bank

Speakers Bios



(Moderator) **Jie-ae Sohn**, Senior Consultant, KGGTF, World Bank Group

Jie-ae Sohn is a Senior Communications and Media Consultant based in Korea and an invited professor at Ewha Womans University's Graduate School of International Studies. She previously served as President/CEO of Arirang TV and Radio and as Presidential Secretary for Overseas Public Relations under South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak. From 1995 to 2010, she was CNN's bureau chief and correspondent in Seoul, and continues to consult for major international organizations including the World Bank and the Asia Foundation.



Richard Damania, Chief Economic Advisor, Planet Vice Presidency, World Bank

Richard Damania is the Chief Economic Advisor of the Planet Vice Presidency Group at the World Bank. Over his career at the institution, he has held senior roles spanning the Water Practice, Africa, South Asia, and Latin America and Caribbean Regions, helping establish the World Bank as a thought leader on environment, water, and the economy. He has published over 100 papers in scientific journals, advised governments and international organizations, and serves on the editorial boards of several prestigious scientific journals.



Kwangchul Ji, Director General, Office for Hyper-Innovation Economy, Korean Ministry of Finance and Economy

Kwangchul Ji is Director General at the Office for Hyper-Innovation Economy at Korea's Ministry of Finance and Economy. His previous post was Senior Economist with the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF) within the Planet Vice Presidency Chief Economist Unit at the World Bank, based in Washington, D.C. Prior to this, Kwangchul worked as Director for various international development divisions in the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Korea.



John Tanui, Principal Secretary, Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy, Kenya

Eng. John Tanui has been PS in charge of ICT and Digital Economy since December 2022. Prior to joining MICDE, Mr. Tanui was the CEO of the Konza Technopolis Development Authority for over 7 years, Deputy Country CEO and Vice President of Huawei Technologies responsible for Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia and Djibouti and the Director of Technical Service Department at Huawei Technologies that he served for over of 15 years.

Mr. Tanui is an active ICT professional who was profiled as tenth in the 2012 Top 40 under 40 by the Business Daily (Nation Media Group). He is a Council Member of Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology, a council member of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya, where he chairs industrialization, environment and quality assurance committee and also serves as committee member for Advocacy, Journal and Publicity. Previously, he served as the University Council Vice Chairman at Technical University of Kenya and also as an Advisory Council Member of the Presidential Digital Talent Program.

He holds a bachelor's degree of technology specialized in electrical and communication engineering from Moi University (Kenya) and MBA in International Business from the University of Nairobi. He is a member of the Institution of Engineers of Kenya, a registered engineer and a member of the Academy of International Business.



Seongjun Bae, Executive Director, Public DX Strategy, NAVER Cloud

Seongjun Bae is a senior executive specializing in energy strategy, digital transformation, and public policy. He currently serves as Executive Vice President for Public DX Strategy at Naver Cloud, leading public-sector digital transformation initiatives. Previously, he led the energy business at SK ecoplant, overseeing fuel cell, renewable energy, and hydrogen strategy and project development.

With over two decades of public service, Mr. Bae has held key positions at the Ministries of Trade, Industry and Energy; Information and Communication; and Knowledge Economy. He holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from Chungnam National University and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Korea University.



Junesoo Lee, Professor, KDI School

Junesoo Lee is a professor at the KDI School of Public Policy and Management, in charge of the Dynamic Sustainability Laboratory (DS Lab). He received his PhD in Public Administration and Policy from the State University of New York at Albany. His teaching portfolio includes: public organizations and management (POM); policy process analysis (PPA); sustainability modeling and simulation (SMS); policy lab practicum (PLP); public management research practicum (PMRP); and case writing practicum (CWP). His research focuses on paradox management for dynamic sustainability, where systems can be sustained by beneficial failure (i.e., failure management) and also challenged by harmful success (i.e., success management).
